



SUNSET BEACH

North Carolina

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September 2013

ANNUAL REPORT: 2012~2013

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the Town of Sunset Beach Annual Report. A review of last year's Annual Report reminded us of the many "grand openings" we celebrated: fire station #2, the boat ramp and fishing pier, the bathrooms at the beach, the sewer pump station.

This year's highlight was certainly our 50th Anniversary Celebration! Six hundred residents attended the March 26th Reception at Sea Trail and almost 1,000 enjoyed a picture perfect day on our beautiful beach during the May 18th Beach Party. Banners and flags depicting the anniversary logo greet visitors as they drive through Sunset Beach and all-in-all we've gotten rave reviews.

This issue of the Annual Report gives property owners a review of the 2013-2014 Budget and we are again pleased to report there is no increase in taxes.

This is just a snapshot of all that's happened. Yes, it's been a busy year but the improvements in our Town were worth the time, effort, and hard work.

We want to thank all the residents who served on committees, attended Council Meetings and Workshops, sent us e-mails, challenged our thinking, and supported our efforts.

Mayor & Town Council

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY SUNSET BEACH

In 1955, a farmer named Mannon C. Gore sat on his porch on Ocean Isle Beach watching magical sunsets over Bald Island and knew that it was where he wanted to live. He purchased the Island and portions of the mainland and moved his family there. In 1958, Gore built what would become the iconic Sunset Beach Pontoon Bridge, which served the Town until it was decommissioned in 2010 when the high rise Mannon C. Gore Bridge was built and dedicated.

On March 26, 1963, Gore incorporated the area and named it Sunset Beach after the sunsets he so loved. The rest, as they say, is history and this year the Town of Sunset Beach is celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

A committee (Brenda Snead, Herb Tinger, former Mayor Ron Klein, Virginia "Bunny" Lauzon, Clarice Holden, and Dian Robbins) worked with the Town Clerk Lisa Anglin, and Council representatives, Karen Joseph and Carol Scott. With a budget of \$35,000 and Council input, the work began in earnest.

A Reception at Sea Trail drew 600 residents, former and current local officials, Staff, and Congressman Mike McIntyre. This event was followed by a beach party attended by almost 1,000 residents. The weather, the food, the music, and the camaraderie were perfect! Photos of both events are posted on the Town web site.

A months-long display of historical objects and a series of panels telling the story of the Town, its governing bodies, and the people who have made contributions to the growth of Sunset Beach can be seen at Ingram Planetarium.



See photos inside.



THE TOWN BUDGET

The Town Administrator and Finance Director develop the Town's budget through a multi-step process that begins with a review of the previous year's revenues and expenditures. They then meet with each department head to ascertain revenue and expenditure projections for the upcoming budget year. After developing a draft budget, the Town Administrator and Department Heads meet with the Town Council to conduct a line-by-line review.

With guidance from Staff and input from citizens, Town Council constructs an annual budget based on those revenue and expenditure projections. The final budget is available on the Town's web site as well as at Town Hall for review at any time.

From the Town's \$5,933,622 total budget, \$236,000 is designated for capital expenditures including air pack replacements, and two new police vehicles. The funds for street repaving (*see the charts on page 3*) will be transferred from reserves that the Town set aside in anticipation of this ongoing project.

The largest portion of the revenue budget is not

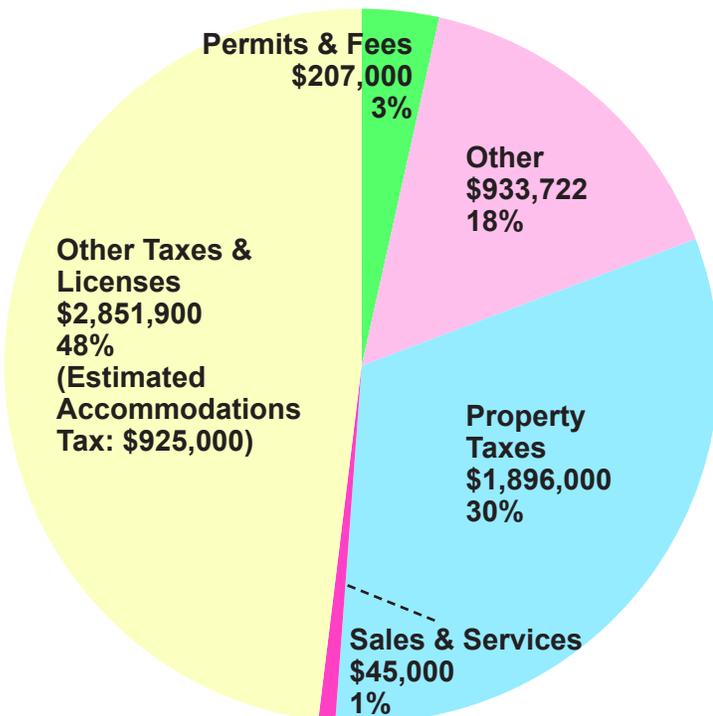
derived from the collection of property taxes. More than 50% of the Town budget is supported by other taxes collected such as accommodations tax, beer and wine license tax, local option sales tax, gasoline tax, utilities/cable franchise tax, solid waste disposal tax, fire fees, beer and wine tax, and misc. State shared taxes. The property tax is 30% of Town revenues.

By function, the largest portion of the expenditures budget – 55% – is devoted to public safety (police, fire, inspections).

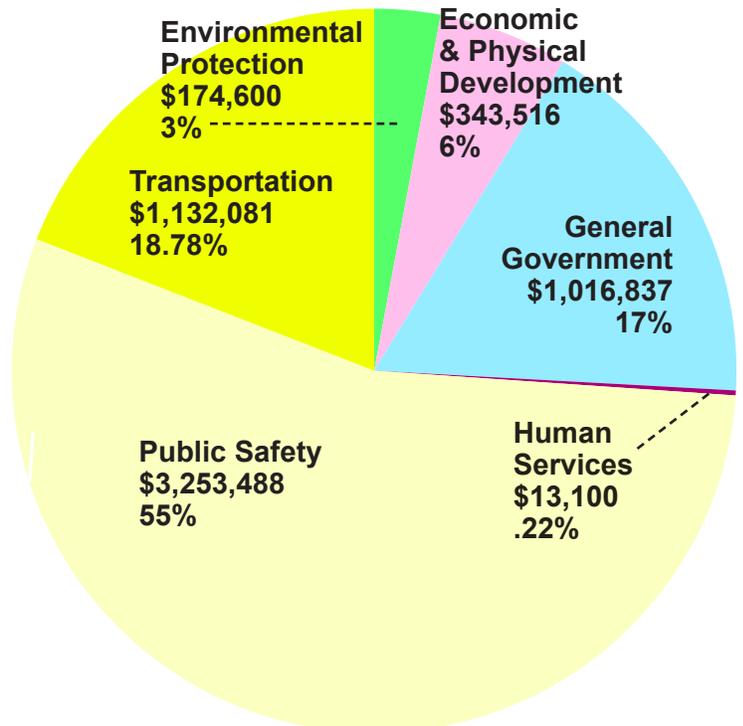
For the past eight years, the Town's Auditors have consistently pointed out that the Town's finances are in excellent condition. (*The complete Town Audit is available on the web site or can be viewed at Town Hall.*)

Thanks to the diligence of Staff and previous Town Councils, as well as the current Council, as of the end of the summer the Town has approximately \$8,433,195 in cash reserves to fund capital improvements and to continue operating in the event of a natural catastrophe.

2013 - 2014 Projected Revenues



2013 - 2014 Projected Expenditures



HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE SPENT

Town expenditures are categorized according to the financial rules set by the NC Local Government Commission as noted in the pie-charts (see page left). Some expenditures like police, fire, and staff are obvious; but many are essentially behind the scenes projects that keep our town safe and moving forward. Some of the projects are quite visible in different areas of Sunset Beach and some are never noticed by the average citizen. Here is a brief look at just some of the services included in Town expenditures.

Transportation: public works; street maintenance and paving.

General Government: administration; Town attorney and legal services; Annual Audit.

Human Services: mosquito control; contributions to non-profit organizations.

Environmental Protection: bulkhead and drainage repairs; sanitation services; storm water drain maintenance and repairs; hurricane preparedness.

Economic & Physical Development: planning and zoning; Chamber of Commerce dues; engineering services; beach strand expenses.

Public Safety: police; fire; inspections.

STREET PAVING SCHEDULE

Street maintenance is included in the Town's long-range planning program. Roads are paved on a rotating basis unless a particular road needs immediate attention due to unforeseen events. The schedule continues to be complicated by the sewer installation project. Repairs on roads impacted by the installation cannot be repaved until at least one year after the final sewer work to ensure the Town is able to take advantage of the warranty. The chart at the right includes all roads scheduled for repaving and their respective costs. Residents will be notified in advance of beginning work.

Budget Year <u>2012-13</u>	Cost <u>Per Street</u>	Budget Year <u>2013-14</u>	Cost <u>Per Street</u>
Oyster Pointe Drive	100,154	6 th Street	30,990
Wedge	5,971	13 th Street	10,098
Green	7,850	15 th Street	10,098
Forest Point	7,850	27 th Street	33,990
Bay	5,987	29 th Street	30,990
Twin Lakes Court	19,524	32 nd Street	33,990
30 th Street	33,990	34 th Street	33,990
33 rd Street	33,990	35 th Street	33,990
39 th Street	30,071	36 th Street	33,990
40 th Street	99,367	37 th Street	33,990
Canal Drive	118,987	38 th Street	30,990
<u>Oyster Shell</u>	<u>21,697</u>	North Shore West & East from Sunset Boulevard to 6 th Street	172,424.61
Total Cost.....	\$485,438	Total Cost.....	\$489,530.61

FAST FACTS

Each month Department Heads provide reports to the Town Council outlining the previous month's activities. Since these reports are included in what is called the Consent Agenda, they rarely get discussed. Here's a quick look at just some of the work done on a daily basis by Town staff over a twelve-month period.

	<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>2012-2013</u>
Police Calls for Service	5,830	6,078
Tons of Leaf & Limb Collected	458	626
Trash Cans on Beach Collected		1,100
Trash Cans Pushed Back to Houses		10,559
Fire Incidents	1,003	1,201
Fire Department Training Hours	4,304	7,656
Permits Issued	2,651	4,019
Inspections	3,967	7,656
Average # of Inspections Per Day	15.96	28.6

GOOD THINGS HAPPENING!

Community Meetings set by Sunset Beach Town Council

As part of our ongoing efforts to expand communications with Town residents and property owners, the Sunset Beach Town Council is once again holding Community Meetings. Last year Council held eleven meetings at various locations. While collectively 226 residents attended, some meetings had fewer than ten attendees. This year's schedule, therefore, is limited to three (3) meetings, the first of which will be held at Sea Trail's Jones Byrd Room (by Magnolia's Restaurant). Residents are invited to attend any one of the three meetings.

These are informal meetings where no action will be taken by the Council. The meetings are intended to be opportunities for attendees to ask questions, make suggestions, and have a give-and-take with Council members and some Town Staff. All meetings are open to the general public.

Meeting Dates —

Sept. 18 — 7:00 p.m. ♦ Jan. 15, 2014 — 10:00 a.m. ♦ May 14, 2014
Sea Trail's Jones/Byrd Room at Magnolia's TBA TBA

NEW BIRD WALK ON SHORELINE DRIVE WEST



As part of the Town's ongoing beautification efforts, the Public Works Department completed construction of a new bird walk at the Twin Lakes.

In 2012, Edward Gore deeded the right-of-way along the East Lake to the Town of Sunset Beach. Birders have always spent time at this area taking photographs of the many unique birds who nest there regularly. Among the most well known are the

Wood Storks that can be seen nesting in the trees that border the lake.

The second phase of the project will include the installation of benches on the walkway as well as signage that will include information about the birds in the area. Finally, low level lighting will be installed to ensure safety for those who wish to enjoy the beautiful sunsets across the road from the bird walk.

The Town of Sunset Beach is proud to be included in the North Carolina Birding Trail. The Coastal Plains portion of the state-wide trail includes 102 birding sites organized into sixteen groups east of Interstate 95. Official Birding Trail brochures are available at Town Hall and on the Town web site.



BE PREPARED FOR A HURRICANE

Have the following items pre-packed and ready to go! And remember: **Re-Entry Passes are required to return to the area after an evacuation. Homeowners can obtain an Emergency Evacuation Re-Entry Pass at Town Hall.**

- Canned goods & nonperishable foods that do not need cooking
- Drinking water in non-breakable containers (at least 2 quarts per person/day)
- Special dietary food if required
- Identification, cash, valuable papers, insurance policies
- Battery-operated radio with an all weather radio
- Extra batteries for radio and flashlights
- Personal hygiene items: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, aspirin, antacid, washcloth, towels, etc.
- Utensils: manual can opener, disposable plates, cups, forks, knives, spoons, napkins, etc.
- Personal aids: eyeglasses, hearing aids, batteries, prosthetic devices
- Books, magazines, cards, toys & games
- Infant care items: formula, food, wipes and disposable diapers
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit, which includes:
 - Prescription medications, bet-adine solution, gauze bandages, adhesive tape, sterile pads, band aids, triangular bandages, safety scissors, non-prescription medication, sunscreen, insect repellent, etc.
- Sleeping bag or blanket, sheet & pillow
- Change of clothing, plus an extra pair of shoes
- Carrying container for items

Go to the Town web page for more information

TOWN RECEIVES MORE GRANT MONEY!

For the second time, the Town received grant money to help defray the costs connected to our recycling program and the containers needed. The pilot program began in 2011 with borrowed equipment and expanded in 2012 with a \$2,000 grant. The 2013 grant of \$8,000 will be used to purchase additional containers for use at the Boat Ramp & Fishing Pier as well as in the upcoming Island Streetscape.

The "compacting containers" have already resulted in cost savings for the taxpayers. Because the containers communicate with the Public Works Department computer, staff makes fewer trips to empty them. An added plus is that when the containers are full the contents remain hidden! And each container has attractive and informative panels encouraging recycling and anti-litter messages.

A second grant from the North Carolina Parks & Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) brought the Town \$418,000 for the development of the Town Park. The first PARTF grant (\$400,000) along with a \$150,000 Division of Water Resources grant was dedicated to the purchase of the property in 2011.

Design planning is underway and the timeline for the official opening of the Park is set for mid-2014.



SEWER PROJECT NEARS END

The long sewer project is almost at an end. The Sunset Beach Sewer Project Notice to Proceed was issued to East Coast Contracting on November 30, 2009. The actual work started in January 2010. Parts of the system were completed and placed into service in 2011. The final contract was completed on December 12, 2012 with the installation of the grinders.

The cost of the total project was \$23,326,117.78. Thanks to grants, interest earned, and sales tax rebates, the amount assessed to property owners who were part of the assessment district was \$20,540,576.77. The Town Council's decision to waive certain permit fees saved property owners more than \$400,000.

As of June 21, 2013, a total of 1,661 property owners have connected to the sewer system. This number includes 928 on the island and 733 on the mainland.

In addition to providing sewer service and the elimination of a septic system, the benefits to Sunset Beach and our environment are exceptional.

As for the economic benefits, the Inspections Department has issued numerous building permits that may not have been possible without the new sewer system. Twelve new homes, a new 4-unit condo building, and 35 new additions are now under construction in Sunset Beach. The number is increasing every day.

The inquiries on building and buying land have tripled in the last year thanks in part to the public sewer system which makes building on previously unbuildable lots possible. Buildable portions of the lot sizes have increased due to eliminating the need for very expensive, privately-owned sewer systems.



Mark your calendar — **Saturday, October 5** is the date for the 7th Annual Sunset at Sunset Community Festival. Held in the area in front of the Ingram Planetarium, the day celebrates the end of the beach season and offers residents and visitors a day of music, food, crafts, and activities for children. The entertainment will be *The Imitations* and the *Brunswick Big Band with Linda Ladrick*. And this year the 5K Run will be over the Mannon C. Gore Bridge!

Volunteers are always needed and welcome. Visit www.sunsetatsunset.com for more information.

TOWN HAPPENINGS

ENHANCEMENTS TO ISLAND ENTRY

One aspect of the Town's plans to enhance the Island's entryway is nearly complete. The Gazebo parking area is newly paved and relined, an additional lane allows beachgoers to unload their vehicles, a new center planting bed provides color thanks to the Beautification Committee, and a brand new beach access is getting rave reviews!

The new access is wider and provides direct access to the bathrooms. In addition, there are "bump out areas" where people may just enjoy the view of the beach. A "mobi mat" makes maneuvering through the soft sand easier for walkers, strollers, and wheelchairs.

The next phase of the project involves building a new, larger gazebo that will provide shade over the benches. In addition, new lighting will be installed as well as a roped fence to complete the design.

New kiosks describing Bird Island and its animal inhabitants were installed.

In the fall, work will begin on the Island Streetscape project. The entire roadway will be redesigned with new lighting, sidewalks, bike lanes, plants, bushes, and trees. A new parking configuration will complete the Sunset Boulevard entrance to the beach. Estimated costs for the redesign are \$600,000+.

MORE IMPROVEMENTS & CHANGES

♦ **New road configuration** ... All-way Stop signs were added to the intersection of Sunset Boulevard & West Shoreline Boulevard in the boat ramp area. These changes were made to improve safety in the area.

♦ **New Staff:** Assistant Finance Director, Cindi Stephenson; Public Works member Roger McPherson

♦ A Town-sponsored reception for Sunset Beach businesses resulted in the formation of the **Sunset Beach Business & Merchants Association**. Working together, the Town and Association share the goal of spreading the good news about Sunset Beach and its merchants.

♦ Seven (7) **additional parking spaces** for fishing pier users were added by Wildlife Commission near the boat ramp site.

♦ **Bridge landscaping** & irrigation were installed by the North Carolina DOT at a cost of \$125,000.

♦ Work started on the installation of a **new water line** to the Island and another to Sandpiper Bay. This improvement by Brunswick County will increase water pressure to both areas and improve fire services.

♦ **Director of Building Inspections & UDO Administrator** Sandy Wood completed course work and achieved the rank of NC Certified Zoning Official.

♦ **Planning Board Appointments** ... Carol Santavicca appointed Chairperson; Tom Vincenz appointed Vice Chair; Noelle Kehrberg appointed as a member and Len Steiner appointed as an alternate.

♦ **Curbside Recycling** ... this new program offered by Waste Industries was welcomed by 651 residents. A 50% reduced cost for Sunset Beach residents was negotiated by Town Staff.



Congressman Mike McIntyre, former Council member Ron Watts, Council member Karen Joseph, former Mayor Ron Klein, Council member Mike Williams, former Mayor Cherri Cheek, and Council member Wilson Sherrill applaud as Ed Gore, former Council member and son of our founder, cuts the anniversary cake.



Many photos from the Sea Trail Reception & the Beach Party can be found on the Town web site.

TOWN HAPPENINGS

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

The location changed, but the sentiment remained the same as more than 200 local residents and Town officials marked Memorial Day.

Police Chief Lisa Massey and Detective Joe Smith coordinated the day's events. "Remembering the intense heat during the 2012 Memorial Day Ceremony, we decided to move to the site of the Town park," explained Chief Massey. "We felt the trees would provide shade and the ever present breeze from the Intracoastal Waterway would increase the comfort level."



Mayor Richard Cerrato served as Master of Ceremonies, Reverend Merlin Boone gave the Invocation, followed by Linda Ladrack's rendition of the National Anthem.

Boy Scout Troop 201 led the laying of the memorial wreath and West Brunswick High School JROTC was responsible for the Presentation of the Colors.

Retired Lt. Col. Samuel Alano was the guest speaker and bagpiper Kevin Mulholland closed the program.



OUR VOLUNTEERS

Town government often relies on the spirit of volunteerism among residents. Following is a list of volunteers who were recognized at the Town Council's December 2012 meeting. We thank them for their service.

UDO COMMITTEE

Marci Berry
Alan Doolittle
Bill McDonald
Bill McLane
Charlie Nern
Becky Noble
Carol Santavicca
Al Seibert
Jim Strandquist
David Stuart
Eddie Walters
Tom Vincenz

SPECIAL BEACH PROJECT

Ed Gutknecht

BEACH SWEEP

Clara Newell

SUNSET AT SUNSET

Marci Berry
Ann Bokelman
Karen Dombrowski
Jean Hutchinson
Lois McClellan
Beverly Williams

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Gerri Andujar
Katie Bodner
Marianne Cerniglia
Lynn Eriquez
Jean Hutchinson
Barbara McCoy
Linda Rudick
John Walz

Sandpiper Bay
POA for use of its
Residents Center for
Community Meetings

Al Ververka for
assistance with
Sandpiper Bay &
Island Waterlines

Tim Cate for
assistance with Gore
Bridge landscaping

MOSQUITO CONTROL INFORMATION & HELPFUL TIPS

The Public Works Department sprays for mosquitoes within Town limits during the summer months. Spraying is typically done between 5 a.m. and 6 a.m. on the following schedule:

Monday - Island **Tuesday** - Shoreline and Seaside Station
Wednesday - Sea Trail (from Calabash River to Old Georgetown Road and Sugar Sands)
Thursday - Bonaparte, Oyster Bay, Lakewood Estate and the remainder of Sea Trail
Friday - Cape Side, Sandpiper Bay, and Wyndfall

Mosquito control by the Town will not get rid of every mosquito. Please visit Town Hall to obtain **free mosquito briquets** to place on your property to help reduce the mosquito population. The briquets can be tossed in the ditches and rain barrels, crushed and distributed in birdbaths, potted plants and around shrubbery or trees. Please visit the Town web site and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at www.cdc.gov for more information.

CONTACT US

HOW TO REACH TOWN HALL & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Town Hall: 579-6297 or 579-3808
Inspections Department: 579-0068 or 579-0075
Police Department (non-emergency): 579-2151
Fire Station #1 (non-emergency): 579-2456
Fire Station #2 (non-emergency): 579-8090
General e-mail: sunsetbeach@atmc.net

Gary Parker, Town Administrator
Lisa Anglin, Town Clerk
Donna Rogers, Finance Director
Dustin Graham, Public Works Director
Sandy Wood, Inspections Department Head
Lisa Massey, Police Chief
Kevin Dempsey, Fire Chief

Mayor Rich Cerrato ~ 910.579.1418
sunsetbeachmayor@atmc.net

Mayor Pro-Tem Lou DeVita ~ 910.579.2780
deesatplay@atmc.net

Councilwoman Karen Joseph ~ 910.579.4891
kjoseph@atmc.net

Councilwoman Carol Scott ~ 910.579.9104
ckscott13@gmail.com

Councilman Wilson Sherrill ~ 910.575.3083
wilsonsherrill@hotmail.com

Councilman Mike Williams ~ 910.579.8066
mikecwilliams@yahoo.com

Stay informed about Town events by visiting the web site: www.sunsetbeachnc.gov
Sign up on the website home page to receive meeting & emergency notices via e-mail.
Town Council meets the 1st Monday of each month in the Council Chambers at Town Hall.
Meetings begin at 6:45 p.m.

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